

Don't be afraid of a Khamisun

PALGIN HELPS!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1955

THE JERUSALEM POST

8 Pages

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FRIEDMANN JERUSALEM

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Column One David Courtney

It is a pity the Gaza talks have ended. It is always a pity when talks between nations are disrupted. It is a pity that a fine thing really, if only because while people are talking they cannot easily be up to any serious mischief. That is particularly true, of course, when the talkers stand between two opposing armies, as Mr. Tikhonov and Colonel Cobar, with General Burns to guide and soothe them, have been doing in the corrugated iron hut at Kilometer 50. They have talked and talked and there was no good reason why they should not have gone on talking and talking until one fine day, with a shaking of hands and a flourish of pens, all the talk had been compressed into a ten-page document with the nature of an agreement.

That was not to be. Apparently Colonel Cobar and his colleagues of Colonel Nasser's Government gave up because it seemed to them that the talk was leading them, so to speak, up the garden path. I have often wondered why people should not be led up garden paths, and what particular garden path it was that made all other garden paths suspect. In this instance, it seems to have been feared that at the end of the garden path Egypt would have found herself in direct contact with Israel instead of contact through the mouth, ear and post-box of the United Nations. And direct contact with Israel, means, I suppose, some kind of recognition of Israel's existence as a State capable of performing the ordinary functions of a State. In effect, then, the breaking off of the Gaza talks is much the same thing as the refusal of Egyptian basketball players to play Israel basketball players.

The consequences may be quite different. The basketball players can leave the field in a huff with no one much the worse for their huff. When the Egyptian negotiators of the Gaza talks leave the field, however, it is to nervous gun-positions and watchful patrols, and to a form of contact between the two sides which is dangerous to the life and limb of both and may become, in United Nations phraseology, a threat to the peace, or such peace as there may be in the area and region. That is why it seems odd that the great Powers should have been unable to convince the Egyptians of the desirability, for wider, deeper reasons than the "maintenance of security along the demarcation line," of going back to the corrugated iron hut and keeping up the talk as long as possible and preferably until agreement was reached.

With whom, now, is the ball? The United Nations I suppose, who for the moment may be undecided whether to toss it. It seems not improbable, however, that the failure of these relatively minor talks may well be the last straw for the United Nations and the Western Powers to work out some action at higher status and with larger purpose. For every failure of this kind may be said to worsen the situation that was the occasion of the effort that failed. And a worsening situation in the Gaza area must undoubtedly become a threat to the peace unless a way is found to get the two sides talking directly to a local Israeli commander or to have beside him a U.N. observer to serve as his voice and the voice of the man at the other end, but about tidying up the armistice agreement in general and dropping all the outdated and nerve-racking devices of what may be post-belligerency but can as easily be post-intelligence.

In any event, if indeed the Egyptians have decided against a resumption of the Gaza talks, a deterioration in the state of affairs along all Israel's borders may become something more than a possibility during the time that must elapse between now and the raising of some new border but to the dignity of a conference chamber. The sooner the new high and the new talks are found the better. One day the Egyptian basketball players will meet and play the Israeli basketball players and one day the political negotiators when they have finished their talks will leave the field to farmers and shepherds instead of to nervous runners and watchful patrols. It seems silly to go on delaying that inevitable day.

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'Egypt Wrecked Efforts to Improve Gaza Security'

The protracted effort to come to some agreed arrangement for improving border security along the Gaza Strip has been wrecked as a result of Tuesday's announcement by the Government of Egypt breaking off the negotiations, a Government statement last night declared. It went on: "Egypt has sought to justify this step by claiming that Israel forces had attacked an Egyptian post in order thereby to influence the conduct of the talks."

"This version of what occurred at Mefalim is a complete distortion. The facts are that an Egyptian fortified post opened fire on an Israeli patrol proceeding on its rounds in open country. The absence of any cover, the patrol thereupon found itself confronted with the choice of either facing destruction or else attempting to silence the fire by storming the post. It chose the latter."

"Egypt's use of this pretext as a further proof of the insincerity which from the beginning has characterized its attitude to the negotiations, is a clear indication of its unwillingness to put forward the United Nations and supported by the Powers, for high-level conversations between Egypt and Israel, intended to put a stop to the disturbed situation along the Gaza Strip, was rejected by Egypt. Israel for its part, concerned to miss no opportunity to improve security in the border region, nevertheless agreed to embark on negotiations within the framework of existing contacts between the parties."

"These discussions began on June 28 and continued with intervals for almost two months. The Israel representative in sustained efforts for direct and effective agreement which would help bring about quiet and security, showed flexibility and exemplary patience."

"At every stage of the negotiations this attitude clashed with rigidity and intransigence on the part of Egypt, beginning with the futile and unproductive arguments on every lot of the agenda and terminating with an obstinate rejection of every proposal for direct and effective contact between the parties designed to bring about cooperation in the prevention of incidents."

"In the course of the negotiations it has become abundantly clear that Egypt's aim was to demonstrate its refusal to enter into contact with Israel in order to uphold its declared position that a state of war persists between Egypt and Israel, rather than to devise security arrangements."

"Whilst the talks were proceeding Egypt stepped up with its own territory a campaign of public incitement against Israel. In addition, its representatives attempted to disrupt the discussions which were in progress at the same time for promoting security along other borders of Israel of war."

"The whole record of Egypt's conduct in these talks, culminating in their unilateral termination, proves that it regards the Armistice Agreement as a shield behind which it may enjoy the benefits of peace while exercising the rights of war."

"The Government of Israel is prepared as ever to observe the provisions of the Armistice Agreements. But it will take whatever measures may be called for in the event of their violation. Whilst Israel continues to be vitally interested in the promotion of security in the border regions, full responsibility for the breakdown in the negotiations rests squarely on Egypt," the statement concluded.

Peace Desirable, Not Indispensable — Sharett

NEW YORK, Thursday (INA). — The New York Times in a report today from its correspondent in Jerusalem quoted Prime Minister Sharett as saying that if the Arabs felt no inducement to convert the present armistice into a peace treaty, Israel too could live without peace indefinitely although it is not a prospect to be relished.

Mr. Sharett said he regretted the renewed tension because "there are no real clashes of interest inherent in a peaceful situation with Egypt if each party is allowed to exercise its peace rights freely. Israel is quite prepared to leave the Gaza Strip as it is, provided it is not used as a springboard for continued attacks and incursions into Israel territory."

Prime Minister Sharett on Wednesday met with the Ambassador of the U.S., Mr. Edward Lawson, and the Ambassador of the U.K., Mr. John Nicholson, on the Gaza Strip situation. Yesterday morning the U.N. Chief of Staff, Major-General E. L. M. Burns, called at the Foreign Ministry to discuss developments following the break-off of the Gaza talks.

DULLES TO SPEAK ON ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE

WASHINGTON, Thursday (INA). — The Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, will discuss the Arab-Israeli situation tomorrow in an address in New York before the Council on Foreign Relations.

State Department sources indicated that the address will deal mainly with the Middle East. A Department spokesman declined to say whether Mr. Dulles' remarks would include a reference to the Gaza situation.

U.N. Chief Hopeful

UNITED NATIONS, Thursday. — The U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, said today that he had "a sound basis for hoping that the Gaza problem could be settled peacefully despite Egypt's withdrawal from the talks with Israel."

The Secretary-General was asked at a news conference to elaborate on a statement he had made last night.

He pointed out that success or non-success is an academic question. "If both sides are agreed upon a number of points, it should bring about a better situation. I measure success in terms of results in the field, not in the documents that are produced."

U.N. Chief Hopeful

WASHINGTON, Thursday (INA). — President Eisenhower today sent to Congress a report on the mutual security programme which emphasized the turn of Israel toward industry and reported "marked progress" in Israel's management of her economic problems.

The report said, "A good measure of economic stability has resulted from the programme."

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Bulgarian Fighters Gave No Warning Before Shooting El Al Plane; Winds Caused Diversion

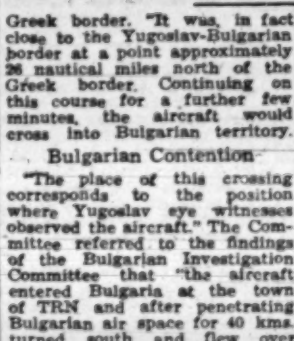
The El Al Constellation shot down by Bulgarian fighter planes with the loss of 58 lives on July 27 entered Bulgarian territory due to adverse weather conditions which could not have been predicted, it was not warned by the Bulgarian fighter planes, previous to the attack and no such messages were intercepted by either Greek or Yugoslav aeronautical stations keeping watch in the vicinity. These are the basic conclusions reached by a special commission of inquiry set up by the Government to investigate the disaster and which published a 13-page report released yesterday in Jerusalem.

The investigation, which bears the signature of Mr. Zaiman Aranne, Minister of Communications, was carried out under the chairmanship of Mr. Emanuel Zart, Director of Aeronautical Services, Department of Civil Aviation; and by Messrs. Mendel Lander, Chief Inspector of Airworthiness, Department of Civil Aviation; Seren Asher Vogel, of the Air Force; Yoel Palgi, Deputy Director General, "El Al" Company; Michael Englard, Assistant Director of Maintenance Department, "El Al" Company; Captain Zvi Tobah, of the "El Al" Company.

The aircraft had left its regular route due to bad weather and winds, the report states. From Kraljevo to south of Skopje there were considerable build-ups of isolated clouds with lightning, king and severe turbulence. Encountering these conditions, the pilots would not have been able to maintain a regular practice, make small detours wherever possible, to avoid passenger discomfort. A map on which the point is marked which the inquiry found was the aircraft's actual position when it was reported over the Yugoslav-Greek border.

"The place of this crossing corresponds to the position where Yugoslav spy witnesses observed the aircraft." The Committee referred to the findings of the Bulgarian investigation Committee that "the aircraft entered Bulgaria at the town of TRN and after penetrating Bulgarian air space for 40 km. turned south and flew over various Bulgarian towns. South of the town of Stanki Dimitrov the plane was intercepted by a Bulgarian fighter which warned it to land. Having regard to the fact that the town of TRN is on a bearing of 135 degrees from Belgrade and at a distance of 147 nautical miles from it, such a course is quite unrelated to the pilot's flight plan or to the direction in which they were making. The winds in this region were as predicted. The pilots were assisted for 70 miles out of Belgrade by reliable track indicating navigational aids (VOR). They were experienced pilots familiar with the route."

No. 20 in series of photos included in the report on the El Al Constellation disaster published yesterday is shown above. Legend reads: "Photo No. 20. Rear part of fuselage showing broken-off empennage. Bulgarian group in background."



Throughout the two days (July 28, 29) the Committee spent on the border awaiting permission to enter. It was able to observe the wreckage and the activity on the site. The work of the Committee during this part of the investigation was greatly facilitated by the sympathetic attitude and willing cooperation of the Greek authorities.

Permission was eventually granted to enter Bulgaria on July 30, but the number of persons was limited to three and they were obliged to return before sunset. The total time allowed in Bulgaria was only seven hours, including transportation to and from the site of the wreckage. During this time, however, the team was able to take (Continued on Page 1, Col. 3)

Ben-Gurion Speaks To G.Z. Leaders Today

Jerusalem Post Reporter. — Mr. David Ben-Gurion is to address 30 members of the General Zionist Party Executive Committee and Knesset Members this morning in an effort to persuade them to join a broad coalition Government. It is understood from General Zionist sources that although there is no sign of enthusiasm over joining, they will give the Prime Minister-Designate's proposals a fair hearing.

Zionist Movement Must Readjust To New Conditions, Goldmann Says

The Zionist Movement cannot regenerate itself and play a leading role in Jewish life if it is unable to readjust itself to the new conditions created by the establishment of the State of Israel. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive in New York, declared at a packed and attentive evening session of the Zionist General Council presided over by Mrs. Judith Epstein, of Hadassah.

Threat of 'Illegal' Immigration Made

A threat that if the Jews of North Africa were denied entry to Israel by a limitation of immigration, the Jewish Agency would make "illegal immigration," this time directed against the Israel Government in place of the Mandatory power, was the sensation which opened the debate at the Zionist General Council meeting yesterday afternoon. It was uttered by Rabbi Fingher, Chief Rabbi of Algiers, who claimed that he was speaking in the name of all the delegations from North Africa.

Share Responsibility

He suggested that they be given a share of responsibility by inducting them into the Zionist organization. This would be done by establishing territorial organizations to which non-Zionists could adhere directly and organize themselves into groups within that territorial organization with the political parties being confined to those of fixed ideological leanings corresponding to those in Israel itself. The existence of parties there with ties in Israel kept many, who would otherwise join such new organizations, from doing so.

Egyptians Fire On Israel Surveyors

A group of Israel surveyors marking the border near the demilitarized zone of Abuja was fired upon yesterday afternoon from an Egyptian position, the Army spokesman announced. The fire was not returned and there were no casualties.

Yesterday morning a group of armed Jordanian infiltrators entered Israeli territory northeast of Beeraba and stole a herd of goats belonging to Beduin, he also announced. The infiltrators fired several shots at the goatherd, who fled.

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Franco-Moroccan Pact Near at Aix-Les-Bains

AIX-LES-BAINS, Thursday (Reuter). — Virtual agreement between France and the Moroccan Nationalists was reached here today for the future organization of Franco-Moroccan relations and the granting of Moroccan independence within the framework of a close and continued Franco-Moroccan interdependence.

Jews Flee Villages, Children Kidnapped

Jerusalem Post Correspondent. — PARIS, Thursday. — An unknown number of Jewish children are missing and presumed dead at Oued Zem, where 10 Jews were killed in Saturday's massacre, the French forces hunted in the middle Atlas Mountains for Moroccan rebels another drama was taking place around the central figures of Grandval, the Resident-General, and the aged Sultan, Mohammed ben Arafa.

It is now firmly believed that M. Grandval's days as France's chief representative in the Protectorate are numbered. Either by resignation or dismissal, he will have to go as the Government's price for the support of its conservative members and to appease the irate French settlers.

The other side of the bargain is the departure of the Sultan from Rabat to spend the rest of his life in exile in a representative government.

Grandval Said Quitting

M. Grandval, who, according to widely circulating but so far unconfirmed reports, has already submitted his resignation, has won a great measure of respect from the Moroccans during his two months in office as a "liberal" who determined to pass a through a new deal for the Moroccans.

His departure might be the signal for more disorder, those who have placed all their hopes in the Resident-General. But M. Grandval's personal position in Morocco is the chief French settlers and some of his own officials are becoming almost untenable.

Yesterday, he was insulted as a murderer and traitor and spat upon by Frenchmen at the funeral of General Raymond Duval, the Commander-in-Chief in Morocco who was killed in an air crash.

His Security Chief, General Georges Emile Lebanc, has resigned his post reportedly because the Resident would not give him free rein in putting down terrorism. Other high civil and military leaders are expected to follow suit.

The 83-year-old Sultan was believed ready to quit a throne on which he has never sat since he replaced the deposed ruler, Mohammed ben Yusef, in 1955.

Fearing a possible new attempt on his life Moroccan police with machine-guns at the ready are maintaining a constant guard even outside the doors of the Sultan's bedroom and bathroom. There were reports today that he is packing his bags preparatory to his departure for Tangier where he recently bought a luxurious palace.

Moors Excitement

News of the repressive French measures provoked Moors excitement at Fez, Port Lyautey and other towns that were hitherto quiet. Unless the divided French Government concludes an early settlement the vicious circle of violence and repression is expected to become calamitous. Especially for the Jews, whose vulnerable moorlands so far have been relatively spared by the still inhibited Moors.

(INA reports from Tunis that the French authorities have ordered large police detachments to guard the Jewish quarter to prevent a recurrence of yesterday's incidents when Moors unemployed ransacked Jewish bakeries.)

Syrian Guns Fire On Israel Lake Patrol

TIBERIAS, Thursday. — After a period of quiet in the area, shooting started again in the northeast corner of Lake Kinneret, this morning. The entire lake is in Israel territory.

An Israel Coast Guard boat on regular patrol approached a Syrian boat and men fishing in the Israel waters, the Syrians on the nearby shore opened fire on the patrol. The exchange continued some 15 minutes and no casualties on the Israel side were reported. The fishermen escaped by jumping into the water and swimming ashore.



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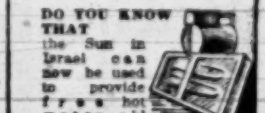
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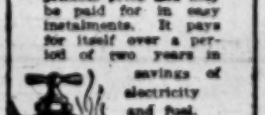
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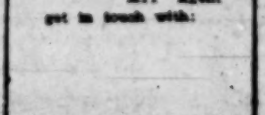
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J. ABRAMOV
Secretary

Dated, August 26, 1955.

Almost Century-Long Equilibrium Threatened by Nationalist Upheaval

Evolution and Revolution in French North Africa

By ROBERT GAUTHIER

THE French have been in Algeria since 1830, in Tunisia since 1881, in Morocco since 1912. Algeria is administratively part of France, while Tunisia and Morocco are protectorates, but the benefits which all the inhabitants of the Maghreb have derived from their connection with France are unquestionable.

In Algeria, whole provinces have been cleared, swampy plains have been drained and rendered cultivable, factories built, dams put up, water and oil wells drilled. The population has grown appreciably, lives under better health and economic conditions, and access to excellent hospital, maternity clinic, and school facilities. Morocco is also thriving, and Tunisia is, not doing so well.

It is because her soil and her underground resources too far — have proved much poorer.

Conversely, the French economy has greatly benefited from North Africa's resources, and the Maghreb is one of the foremost factors which have made France a world power. And it would be difficult to exaggerate the contribution of North Africa's resources to the French struggle in the two world wars, and, more recently, in Indo-China.

It is this symbiosis which is threatened today: it is this equilibrium which must be established upon new foundations.

Together with her men, her capital and her working methods, France has introduced into North Africa her language, her ideas, her culture, and the story of her own fight for liberty and for the emancipation of nations.

Home Rule for Tunisia

It is largely to maintain this influence in Tunisia that the French Parliament has ratified, by a large majority but after heated debates, the set of accords that grants home rule to the Tunisians. The sole functions of the French High Commissioner will be diplomacy and defence. In addition, Tunisia will remain in the same zone, and will form part of a customs union with France, and provisions will be made for the protection of the interests and the positions of resident Frenchmen.

It is a new and unparalleled experiment, which has its risks and its uncertainties, but which carries out the letter of the accords in a spirit of loyal cooperation. One hopes that this will be the end of a long and difficult situation.

No one can question the goodwill on the French side: two successive governments, those of M. Mendes-France and M. Edgar Faure, have carried on the negotiations. The deputies, and then the senators, have signified their approval. And though the Frenchmen of the Regency have opposed the accords vociferously and sometimes even savagely, we may hope that they will adjust themselves to a situation which will require them to renounce certain positions and demand certain sacrifices from their vanity, but enable them to remain in a land where they have built their homes and their churches.

How about the Tunisian side? Home rule was one of the chief claims of the nationalists, and particularly of the Neo-Destour, whose dynamism, enthusiasm, and propaganda made it their

It is in the name of the very principles which they brought in that some individuals now denounce her policy.

For while the North African claims have been encouraged by the French, the French have been encouraged by the Tunisians, which is one of the world's most important post-war developments. They were first formulated long before 1948, particularly in Tunisia and in Morocco. Outside factors have no doubt acted as catalysts in the process, which some foreign states may have been interested in exploiting. But it could also be ascribed to purely domestic development.

What is more, many of the Algerians, Tunisians and Moroccans who demand reforms today were educated in French schools and universities. Even among those who claim allegiance to the French, there are many who are not French. That is why, except in the case of Algeria, where the French claims do not assume the form of a purely domestic development, the French have been able to maintain in North Africa, though no doubt under a different form, a position which she could not possibly give elsewhere.

But so far the situation has been going from bad to worse. In Morocco, while party chiefs negotiate, fanatical elements, obeying obscure slogans, systematically have recourse to violence. A sort of passion for sacrifice has seized the denizens of the medina, and the slums that have grown up around industrial centres. In Algeria, political, economic, and also religious reasons have pushed the entire population of one region to armed rebellion.

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RADIATION ROMANCE

General Results of Atoms-For-Peace Talks

GENEVA.

While the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy discussed the problem of harnessing the H-bomb, there were, during the past two weeks, some general results that have been stated — so often that they can safely be said to be conclusions. Among them are:

1. Fusion power is the next major frontier for atomic scientists. While spokesmen of the three major atomic powers, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and the United States, declined to commit themselves to when atomic energy would become practicable as a source of energy for power, they agreed that it would be found in the near future.

2. The major immediate benefits of the atomic era for mankind will be found in the extensive and ever-increasing use of radioactive isotopes in fields of medicine, agriculture and industry. It is generally agreed that plant mutations which can be induced by radiation with inexpensive isotopes — and, possibly, with radioactive waste from reactors — might well provide the world with man's need for large food supplies to keep up with world's growing population.

3. The conference made available to all the world's scientists an impressive proportion of new information in the field of atomic science. These findings, hitherto not made public, include in the more than one thousand papers presented to the conference. This, combined with the opportunity the conference gave to scientists to exchange ideas and compare data, and to chart new paths of nuclear research, prompted the French High Commissioner for Atomic Energy, Francis Perrin, to comment that this conference marks the end of secrecy in the field of atomic energy. He predicted that the veil of secrecy can never be reimposed on atomic scientists.

4. There was general agreement among scientists engaged in atomic research that they have all achieved roughly the same results, though sometimes they had used different methods. The conference, by giving scientists an opportunity to compare results based on varying methods of research, enabled them to reduce substantially the degree of error in some findings.

5. While the world is on the threshold of an atomic power era, nuclear power plants are going to sprout all over the world. Immediate action is being taken to further experimentation to settle upon the most efficient reactor system and to fully master the use of materials and techniques. The period of further experimentation to settle upon the most efficient reactor system and to fully master the use of materials and techniques. The period of further experimentation to settle upon the most efficient reactor system and to fully master the use of materials and techniques.

6. There is ample fuel in the earth to mount a world-wide power-development programme when reactor techniques have been completely mastered. Scientists learned of vast new discoveries of uranium deposits, and more abundant thorium might ultimately replace uranium as reactor fuel.

7. Dangerous reactor radiation is being effectively controlled, and hazards should not be great if power development programmes are well managed. However, a note of caution was offered by geneticists at the conference, who pointed out that little is yet known about the genetic effects of even minute doses of radiation on humans. The geneticists called for a concentrated effort to fully examine this problem.

8. The question which may well be asked in the days that are to come is whether, without the nuclear and the subatomic, the differing and opposing hopes of free men can be reconciled and fused into national purposes. — Mr. Walter Lippmann.

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Frontiersman Couple Stakes Out Claim

By YISHAYARU ASHRI

A well-known Tel Aviv zoologist and a veteran mechanical engineer are on their way to taming a lone wild hill five kilometres from Faradya, in the heart of the highest Galilee mountains range.

Dr. Hilda Becker and Yohanan Ben-Dor, who have gone through the Hagana and the Israel Defence Army — he designed the Army's two-inch and three-inch mortars and hand-grenades — gave up their lucrative jobs and their comfortable house in Tel Aviv three years ago. Yohanan, a professional scout, explored all the mountains of Galilee before he selected the

decalogue but magnificent hill that was to be their home. Eight hundred and forty metres above sea level, it looks out over half of Israel. Half the Kinneret, the Jordan Valley, the Golan and the Bashan, Mt. Tabor and Mt. Carmel.

After a year-and-a-half spent living in Faradya and tending meticulously at clearing stones, terracing and putting up a little land motor, an ox-drawn ploughing on the hillside. There is a poultry run with chickens and geese, and a pigeon roost.

The brain and the heart of the embryo farm is a little sheet metal hut, which houses a mechanical pump, powered by a generator. There, Yohanan made his feed hoppers and his grain feeder, which might well be patented and limited to his own use.

Around their tent, a farm is taking shape in the wilderness: vines, which are thriving without irrigation; all sorts of fruit trees, from apples and cherries to loquats, vegetables, and even a strawberry patch. They used to bring the water in a barrel towed by a jeep, but lately the J.N.F. has done the job in a institution where they have met any response, has been piping some water to them. They cultivate the level parts of the farm with a little hand motor, an ox-drawn ploughing on the hillside. There is a poultry run with chickens and geese, and a pigeon roost.

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This image shows a single, vertically oriented page from an old, lined notebook. The paper is off-white or light gray, showing signs of age such as slight discoloration and small dark spots. Horizontal blue or gray ruling lines are spaced evenly down the length of the page. On the right side, there is a dark, vertical strip representing the notebook's binding or the edge of another page. Near the bottom of this dark strip, there is a small, irregular tear or hole in the paper. The overall texture appears slightly grainy.

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THE report published yesterday by the Ministry of Transport, following the shooting down of an El Al plane over Bulgarian territory on July 27, makes melancholy reading, paragraph by paragraph.

PLANE CRASH REPORT

Firstly, it is now clearly established that the plane was driven off its course by an unexpected change in the direction and strength of the wind, and that it may have made additional small detours to avoid storm-centres. Secondly, the plane, a large civilian aircraft of a familiar type, was attacked by fighter aircraft not less than three times, at close range, the third and fatal time while it was already losing height rapidly and skimming over a mountain range trying to make an emergency landing in the plain beyond. Thirdly, the Bulgarian authorities removed instruments, equipment and engine parts from the wreckage, and searched the remnants to the extent of removing away fuselage sections. Fourthly, they obliged the Israeli team of investigators to wait for 48 hours on the frontier, in full sight of the wreckage, where search operations could be seen in progress. They excluded the team to enter, excluded the armaments expert, and limited the stay to seven hours. They did not arrange for the team to interrogate the pilots who shot down the plane, or the officer who requested the plane to be shot, or the pilot who failed to date to return any of the equipment removed from the plane.

Finally, the official Bulgarian report on the incident, available and in accurate almost only in the facts that Bulgarian jet fighters attacked the plane, and that there were no survivors. The entire sequence of events is no credit to Bulgaria, which has in the past maintained good relations with Israel, and suggests, at best, that its military equipment is superior to the nerves or good sense of a military command that could show such ignorance and brutality, even though it is easy enough to shoot down an unarmed plane. Nor did the civilian authorities, after the event, fail to match the air force's combined callousness and ineptitude.

If there is anything to be placed on the credit side of this event, it is the clear evidence of the report that the El Al plane and its crew were operating in perfect order, and that the navigational error which set the tragedy in motion was one totally beyond the control of the pilot, who could not have been aware that the wind had changed, and as the landmarks below were concealed by cloud. Had the plane been allowed to proceed unmolested, it would not have spent more than six or seven minutes over Bulgarian territory. When the plane was already burning, and the pilot realized he had been attacked, he tried to make for an abandoned military airfield in the neighbourhood, and might have reached it had he not suffered a third attack with a large calibre weapon, probably firing a rocket. Inside the cabin, the crew apparently made an heroic last-minute effort to protect the passengers by stuffing blankets into holes through which fire and smoke were entering.

Again, despite the obstacles placed in their way, the Committee has been able to reconstruct fully what happened, and they have produced an admirably clear and complete account. Israel is also clearly indebted to the Greek authorities and witnesses, military and civilian, with whose friendly cooperation the work was carried out.

CHECKING-UP ON MIDWIVES

A survey of non-licensed midwives is to be made by the Ministry of Health, beginning next week, the Ministry spokesman stated yesterday. The survey aims at determining the professional training of midwives in order to prepare a programme of advanced study for them. A substantial number of midwives have come to the country in recent years and continue to practice without having had sufficient training, the spokesman said. Midwives will be requested to fill out questionnaires which are available at District Health Offices. Only those midwives covered by the survey will be permitted to continue to practice.

Aircraft Maintenance Base at Lydda CERTIFICATE FOR BEDEK

By Evi Halman

LESS than two years after it began to operate, the Bedek Aircraft Maintenance Base at Lydda Airport will today receive the formal recognition of the Transport Ministry's Department of Civil Aviation and the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Association. The certificates will be presented in the presence of the Prime Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, the U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Edward R. Lawson, Air and Commercial Attaches of foreign embassies and legations, and representatives of the Ministry of Transport, the Armed Forces, and the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Association.

The granting of the U.S. certificate opens the doors for entry into the international market of aircraft maintenance and repair. Deputy Managing Director Hayman Shamir told The Jerusalem Post that the certificate is granted only after the most careful check has been made of equipment, work procedures and personnel, and the standards approved by the Association must be maintained and are subject to regular inspection. Certificates are issued to those repair and maintenance establishments which are likely to be of use to U.S. carriers and lines carrying U.S. passengers regularly. The Bedek base has been approved by the C.A.A. for as wide a range of work as that licensed in any plant outside the U.S.

The original suggestion for a Government-owned aircraft maintenance base came from the Defence Minister, Mr. David Ben-Gurion, who toured a small plant on the American West Coast during his visit to the U.S. in 1951. He approached the president of the company running the base, and suggested to him that he settle in Israel and found here a maintenance base which would later be able to produce spare parts for aircraft, and eventually to build aircraft. Mr. Ben-Gurion took up the suggestion, and is now the Managing Director of Bedek. A loan was obtained from the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. in 1951. The base was built, and three years ago last year, building began at Lydda Airport.

Four Divisions

The new company's first customers were the El Al and Arka airlines and the Defence Ministry, but it has done engine repairs and plating for others as well. The foreign technicians were employed initially but now, out of nearly 700 workers, only a dozen are non-Israelis. There is still a shortage of skilled mechanics, and nearby housing is provided as an attraction to workers whose skills are needed. The company is partly meeting the shortage by training courses. Mr. Shamir said that work for foreign airlines would bring considerable income in foreign currency as most of the cost was the labour involved, and this gave foreign earnings a very high added value. In cases where comparisons with other countries were possible, the quality of Israeli work came very close to any international standards which applied. Israel's

hour costs were IL5-IL5.50 per man-hour compared with \$5-\$5.50 in the U.S., and there was no commercial reason why Greece, Italy and Turkey should not find it advantageous to make use of the Israeli base. The advent of peace to the Middle East would further enlarge the scope of the market. At present, European lines are serviced by K.L.M. in Holland or R.O.A.C. in Britain.

The Bedek base has four divisions: each has its chief technical manager and each is subdivided into a number of shops controlled by assistants to the division chiefs. Every shop has its own specialist inspectors and is largely self-contained, with its own stores and work premises. Production managers, known as "production chasers" co-ordinate the work of all the shops to ensure that the parts needed for re-assembly are ready in time in the order needed, e.g., engines before wings.

A huge hangar, capable of holding two Constellation aircraft and a Dakota simultaneously, houses the maintenance division where aircraft are overhauled and stripped of their engines. The engine overhaul division, where they are stripped and cleaned, the parts are inspected and replaced where necessary, and then put together again as good as new. After a thorough inspection, the engines go to the "test cell," where their performance is tested by instruments used in aircraft. The test cell, the engines are checked again before being sent out for dispatch.

A similar procedure is followed in the components division where instruments, aircrews, and radio, electric and fuel parts are inspected and maintained, and in the service division, which includes a woodwork and metalwork shop, a small foundry and a plating shop, and where new parts for fuselages and airframes are made. In contrast to the noise and factory atmosphere in the other shops, the instrument shop is spotlessly clean, silent and air-conditioned.

The Bedek Maintenance Base occupies about 50 dunams of ground at the edge of the airport, and young trees are already growing around the lawns surrounding the office and shop buildings. The well-equipped, airy dining hall serves breakfast and lunch to the staff at reasonable rates and holds about 250 of them in order of two shifts at mealtimes. The base is essentially a place where young people are at work and things seem to run smoothly, everybody knowing what his job is and how to do it.

American Scene

Candidates for the Presidency

By PATRICK O'DONOVAN

WASHINGTON, (OPNS). — FOREIGNERS often complain that the American political system does not allow its leaders ever to forget the trade of politics and get on with the art of government. The last Congressional elections were held only nine months ago; yet already the air is filled with wild speculation about the 1956 elections.

Although the two great Parties will not meet in convention to choose their candidates for the Presidency until mid-August 1956, those who regard themselves as possible candidates are already jockeying for position. Naturally, the scrimmage is keener in the Democratic Party, for the hopes of Republicans are centred on the one man, President Eisenhower. If he decides to run for a second term of office, they can be pretty confident that he will be elected. If he decides that he is too old for the gruelling routine of the White House, they can be as sure that any other candidate will be defeated. And the President, who clearly has not yet made up his mind, keeps dangling unobtrusively on the hook of uncertainty.

In the Democratic Party, on the other hand, there are on embarking on a campaign. He was re-elected last week when the Governors of the 36 States met in Chicago for their annual conference. It had been assumed that Stevenson, who was the Democratic candidate for the Presidency in 1952, would have the nomination if he wanted it. But it became obvious that now figures have taken to the streets.

Chief of these is Mr. Averell Harriman, who was elected Governor of New York State last year in his first attempt at public office. The sudden surge of sympathy towards Mr. Harriman, caused Mr. Stevenson to

THIS WEEK...

Foreign Affairs Egypt withdrew from the negotiations held with Israel under U.N. sponsorship aimed at reducing tension along the border, objecting to Israeli attempts, as she put it, to bring the two states into direct contact with one another. Earlier, Egyptian guns attacked an Israeli patrol near Mefalim along the Gaza Strip border, and in the ensuing clash the patrol overran and captured the Egyptian position from which the fire came bringing death to three of the attackers and wounding eight. Israel demanded the immediate release of four soldiers being held in a Syrian prison after discovering a Damascus claim that a Syrian officer was being held here. Syria murdered a Druse watchman in Upper Galilee. The release by the Lebanon of three hikers from Kibbutz Gonen who had been incarcerated for four months was announced. An exchange of tourists between Russia and Israel was announced.

Coalition Mr. Ben-Gurion officially began negotiations with party leaders to establish a coalition.

Zionist Council The dangers facing thousands of Jews in North Africa were discussed at the Zionist General Council which met in Jerusalem. Problems dealing with mass immigration from Morocco and Algeria took up a large part of the debate. Reports from Morocco said that many Jewish families were abandoning their homes for the safety of better defended areas. The first of 20 volumes of Herzl's works in Hebrew was published, the Council was told.

Miscellany Pay rises for senior civil servants were approved, but Directors-General of all Ministries agreed to a one-third cut in the increases proposed by the Civil Service Commission. The State appealed the verdict in the Greenwald-Kastner trial.

Readers' Letters

ISRAEL VETERINARIAN
Editor, The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — Jews in the Diaspora have often been outstanding in medicine, and it seems particularly appropriate that Israel should do well in the veterinary field, which combines the science of medicine with that of farming, one so long neglected by our people.

The Jewish community here, in Sydney, takes pride in the success of Johanan Lipiner, an Israeli who came here after the War of Independence, following many years of farm labour in Israel and who, without a completed secondary education, soon gained entrance to the University, and after attaining every worthwhile prize and scholarship during the course, graduated with First Class Honours in Veterinary Science and was awarded the University Medical. To my knowledge, this is the second time since World War II that this distinction has been awarded in the Sydney Veterinary School.

He is now leaving for Israel and both his Jewish and non-Jewish friends will wish luck to the "Israel Vet".
Yours, etc.
S. RADAGOWSKI
Sydney, N.S.W., August 7.

RAOUL WALLENBERG
Editor, The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — I venture to write you a few lines in connection with

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the first of your six volumes of

Churchill's Memoirs

of World War II

Readers of The Jerusalem Post who placed orders for this set of books, and paid the initial down payment, should watch out for the coupons to be printed shortly. The first coupon in Series 1 will appear in the next day or two, and the remaining 4 will follow within the next 10 days. When you have all five bring them together with IL3 to the office where you placed your order. Your original receipt for the Down Payment is your identification.

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MAY 1956

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